

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks. Applicants are requesting withdrawal of the Appeal.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-49 are pending. Claims 11 and 27 have been currently amended to place them in independent form. Claims 1-10, 18-26, and 44-49 have been canceled. No claims have been added. No new matter has been added.

Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,977,958 of Hinman et al ("Hinman"). Claims 44 and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Shenoi. Claims 18-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,226,322 of Mukherjee ("Mukherjee").

Claims 18-25, 44, and 45 have been canceled. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the removal of the above 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejections.

Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-9, 44, and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mukherjee. Claims 10, 26, and 46-49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mukherjee as applied to claims 9 and 25. Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,507,606 of Shenoi et al ("Shenoi") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,106,854 of Gough et al ("Gough"). Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hinman in view of Gough.

Claims 1-10, 25, 26, and 44-49 have been canceled. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the removal of the above 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 31-43 are allowed.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 31-43.

Claims 11-17 and 27-30 stand objected to as depending from a rejected independent claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all intervening claim limitations.

Previous dependent claims 11 and 27 have been rewritten in independent form and include all intervening claim limitations. Independent claims 11 and 27, as amended, include allowable subject matter. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 11 and 27 are in condition for allowance.

Dependent claims 12-17 depend upon independent claim 11. Dependent claims 28-30 depend upon independent claim 27. Dependent claims 12-17 and 28-30 include allowable subject matter. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 12-17 and 28-30 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the remarks set forth herein, the rejections and objections have been overcome. If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Jeremy A. Schweigert at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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